

First Sunday of Advent December 2, 2018

I will raise up for David a just shoot;
he shall do what is right and just
in the land.

— Jeremiah 33:15

THE PROMISE OF JUSTICE

We are in fairly good company when we ask God for justice. Often enough we hear and agree with the lament of the people of Israel asking God why the wicked prosper. However, when we call out for justice, we usually want someone to get his or her comeuppance. God's justice is something other than this, of course. God's justice comprises a wonderful rightness between God and humankind.

Today, Jeremiah looks ahead to a time when a just one will sprout from the shorn-off stump of Jesse of the house and family of David. Life was not fair in Jeremiah's time. Israel's kings held the promise of God's fidelity, but it was difficult to see how God's promise could be realized through them.

Nevertheless, Jeremiah lifts his voice and announces that the Promised One will come. Luke's Gospel echoes that announcement, and Paul is filled with sturdy encouragement. And so Advent begins with a promise. -- © J. S. Paluch Co.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Occasionally, someone raises a surprised complaint that while Christmas arrives on Santa's sleigh at the Macy's parade on Thanksgiving Day, the Church doesn't catch on too fast. They may even say that Advent is a new-fangled idea. Not so. To trace its beginnings, we have to go back to the fourth or fifth century in France (then Gaul), when Epiphany was the favored day, next to Easter, for baptism. The old pagan structures of Rome were collapsing then, and many people sought to be baptized. Since adults always prepared for baptism by fasting, folks counted back a few weeks for a kind of retreat. Before too long, bishops were advising everyone to attend church frequently beginning on December 17. Soon, artists were imagining ways of expressing the Advent mystery, and in Italy this gave rise to beautiful mosaics of empty thrones awaiting the arrival of the Lord of all creation.

Advent as we know it develops on two separate tracks: the first having to do with our spiritual preparation for celebrating the Christmas feast, and the second having to do with the way this is organized and expressed in the liturgical readings and prayers every day of the season.

--Rev. James Field, © J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

Bob Burke's Kids' Program, A nonprofit service group for children with serious medical and physical challenges, invites you to their annual Christmas social fundraiser at the Union Hotel on this Wed., Dec. 5, from 5:30 to 8:30PM. There will be a buffet, cookies, raffles, Santa, & performances by local groups. A voluntary donation is appreciated to join us for this wonderful evening. For more information, call Linda Burke at 887-1222.



Finance Corner:

Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!



For the month of **November/December** offerings:

11/25: 1st Collection: \$1608. Rural Food: \$2396.
12/2: Operating Expenses. 12/8: Immaculate Conception.
12/9: No 2nd collection [optional for Sr. Marjorie].

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council: Wed., 1/23/19, at 10AM in Hall
Finance Council: Wed., 12/12/18, at 11AM in Hall

Liturgy Committee: TBA

St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044
St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Susan, 829-1189

Every Friday, Centering Prayer: 9:30AM at St Philip

Coffee & Goodies: Following 8AM Sunday Mass and Wednesday/Friday after 9AM Mass, at St Philip Hall

Mondays & Wednesdays-Seniors Lunch at 12noon:

All seniors welcome! (No lunch Monday before 2nd Tuesday of month)



✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

Sat., Dec. 1, 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith
Sun., Dec. 2, 8am Mass for the People
Sun., Dec. 2, 9:30am Mass Paul Wallace
Sun., Dec. 2, 11:15am Mass ✠ Emilio Gonzalez
Mon., Dec. 3, 9am Prayer Service
Tues., Dec. 4, 9am Mass Paul Wallace
Wed., Dec. 5, 9am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer
(followed by Anointing of the Sick)
Thurs., Dec. 6, 9am Mass ✠ Harry McGuinness
Fri., Dec. 7, 9am Mass ✠ Tina Bartolo
Sat., Dec. 8, 9am Immaculate Conception Mass, Bodega, for the People
Sat., Dec. 8, 12pm Immaculate Conception Mass, Occidental, Evan Cooley
Sat., Dec. 8, 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith
Sun., Dec. 9, 8am Mass Paul Wallace
Sun., Dec. 9, 9:30am Mass for the People
Sun., Dec. 9, 11:15am Mass ✠ Holly White

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: First Sunday of Advent
Monday: St. Francis Xavier
Tuesday: St. John Damascene
Thursday: St. Nicholas
Friday: St. Ambrose; First Friday
Saturday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Prayer Requests: Teresa K., Pat K., Thomas T., Susan B., Jamie Silva, Lorri McCamen, Sarah, Clifford J., Terri Andrews, Marilyn Vitali, Fred Pisani, Theresa Spiteri, Sara, Mary Anne Parque, Sr. Marjorie Krusky, Barbara, Kathy Higgins, Fr. Logan, Dave Creeth, Jim P., William, Annie Tobin, Parson Pfsorich, Dave, Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally Tillsbury, Mary Karp, Columbina Albini, Michael Dan, Richard Macche, Kathleen, Lisa, Rosa Santos, Papke family, Susan Bonomine, Zeidan family

Advent/Christmas preparation:

Copies of *The Little Blue Book* are available at the entrance table of each church. A voluntary \$1 donation is appreciated, if possible.

Remember Lord, those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith." These beautiful words at Mass recall our beloved dead. A Mass intention is a way to remember a beloved friend or family member, whether in death, for healing, in celebration of a special day, or simply for prayer and guidance. Come by the office (or call 707-874-3812) to arrange the Mass. A customary donation of \$10 is appreciated.

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for November, 2018

On November 13 we welcomed 110 families representing 149 adults, 55 children and 37 seniors for a total of 241 people receiving nutritional support. This program is funded through the Rural Food Collection on the last Sunday of each month as well as through private donations and the generous support of our volunteers.

Even in an area known for its incredibly rich agricultural resources, 36% of households in Sonoma County still go hungry each day. The Sonoma County Hunger Index reported that, even with numerous agencies providing food and support for hungry residents, the meal gap has remained steady for several years. The St. Philip/St. Teresa Rural Food Program has been responding to those in need for over thirty years thanks to the generosity of our volunteers and donors.

Please continue to collect paper grocery bags, especially with handles, and egg cartons. We are looking into biodegradable produce bags and recyclable grocery bags for our clients. Please consider one of the volunteer opportunities listed below. Over 160 St Philip/St Teresa volunteer hours are needed each month to provide this program for our Rural Food families.

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, December 8, from 9-10:00am repackaging -- Parish Hall

Monday, December 10, from 12:30 – 2:30pm to set up Parish Hall

Tuesday, December 11, from 8:30 – 11:00am to distribute the food and assist clients.



Save the Date!

CELEBRATE 2019

SUNDAY - JANUARY 27, 2019
3PM AT THE UNION HOTEL

Exclusive Limited Print of Ansel Adam's original picture of St. Teresa Church from 1953: All proceeds support needed restoration of St. Teresa of Avila Mission. A limited number of prints have been printed from Ansel's original negative. Each reprint is individually numbered. Prints are available for a donation of \$175. Please contact a restoration committee member for your own limited print: Peg 707-867-6073 or Bob 707-875-9148.

New mailing address for Fr. Loren Allen:

P. O. Box 640592
San Francisco, CA 94164

Advent Concert Series

With Dana, Doug, & James Harman

Visit their website for details: www.danacouey.com

Dec. 13, 7PM, at St. Rose Church, Santa Rosa

Dec. 14, 7PM, at Resurrection Parish, Santa Rosa

(And other dates/churches)

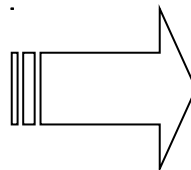
Flowers for the Altar throughout the Year

Flowers for the altar are a spiritual investment for a loved one, to celebrate any occasion, or just to express gratitude for your blessings. Flowers are also a gift to all of us as we enter and see the glorious display around the altar and experience the liturgy framed by such exquisite beauty. We appreciate your donations! To contribute for St. Philip Church flowers, please call 874-6072.

Pope Francis Tweet

"None of us can survive without mercy.
We all have need for forgiveness."

Featured Parish Bulletin Advertiser:



Sierra Sisters

Women's Trips

sierrasisters.net

Janet Kelly 707-874-2126

Rural Food Program Alert!!! The devastating wildfires have displaced many people and it is evident that the rebuilding process will take many months. Family and friends of our Rural Food clients and individuals relocating to temporary housing in our service area will need support. In view of this, we are suspending the residency requirement for our service area (this includes communities from Occidental to Monte Rio, Cazadero, Jenner, Bodega Bay, Bodega, and Freestone.). Catholic Charities Rural Food and the Redwood Empire Foodbank will be informed so that they can refer people to our program. I encourage our parishioners and volunteers to refer individuals and families that may be in need of food. Of course, this will place additional need for volunteers in anticipation of more requests for assistance. November, December and January have always been our busiest months so please help us with set-up and/or distribution. Please be in communication with me (roddemar@comcast.net) and/or leave messages at the parish office (874-3812) if you have any questions or suggestions. Thank you, Rod DeMartini, Program Coordinator

Christmas Star Child Gifts St Philip/St Teresa Community:

Each church tree's star has the name and age of a child from our Rural Food Program. On the stars are several ideas for a gift suggested by the parent to help you in your gift selection. Purchase ONLY ONE item in the \$25-35 price range. The gifts are meant to be given by the parents to their children. (PLEASE-NO VIOLENT GAMES OR GUNS.)

Please TAPE the star to your wrapped gift and return to St. Philip or St. Teresa Church **NO LATER THAN NEXT SUNDAY, DEC. 9.** (Or drop off the gift at the parish office between 9:30am-11:30AM weekdays before Friday Dec. 7.) Sorry, we cannot accept gifts after Sunday, Dec. 9. We will be distributing the gifts on Dec. 11 and so will need to organize them by families on Sunday, Dec. 9.

For questions or concerns (ex., you lost your star or find that you cannot return a gift with your star), please call Peg at 867-6073.

Memo from St. Teresa Guild: "We will be putting up Christmas decorations in St. Teresa's on Sunday, December 16, after the 9:30 am Mass. All parishioners are welcome to join us in this special event complete with pastries, hot drinks, music, and camaraderie."

